

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

*Sub A1* 1. An information processing apparatus comprising:

input means for entering information;

5 processing means for processing said information entered at said input means; and

storage means for storing said information as hysteresis data for an operation that is performed at said input means or by said processing means.

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2. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising output means for outputting results obtained by said processing means.

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3. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means stores associated information, as well as an operation that was performed as hysteresis data.

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4. An information processing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising analyzation means for analyzing the contents of an operation performed at said input means or by said processing means, and for acquiring said associated information for said operation.

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5. An information processing apparatus according

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to claim 1, wherein said input means includes operation entry means manipulated by a user.

5       6. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means includes reception means for receiving an instruction or information from an external device.

10       7. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said instruction includes an instruction from a user for an external device.

15       8. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means includes detection means for detecting a status.

20       9. An information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said associated information includes information concerning a person relative to an operation.

25       10. An information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said information concerning a person includes a person who has issued an instruction or has performed an operation.

11. An information processing apparatus according

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to claim 1, wherein said input means includes reading means for reading and inputting image data.

12. An information processing apparatus according  
5 to claim 3, wherein said associated information includes information concerning time for execution.

13. An information processing apparatus according  
10 to claim 3, wherein said associated information includes information concerning a location for execution.

14. An information processing apparatus according  
15 to claim 3, wherein said associated information includes information concerning an apparatus for execution.

15. An information processing apparatus according  
20 to claim 3, wherein said associated information includes information concerning an object for execution.

16. An information processing apparatus according  
25 to claim 3, wherein said associated information includes associated hysteresis information to correlate with hysteresis information for another associated operation.

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*a<sup>3</sup>* 17. An information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said associated hysteresis information is used to store hysteresis data for a series of operations with correlation each other.

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18. An information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said associated hysteresis information includes information to correlate with hysteresis information for preceding and succeeding operations of said series of operations.

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*a<sup>4</sup>* 19. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means stores said hysteresis data in correlation with an object in a process other than a process performed by said processing means.

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20. An information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said object includes one of file data, schedule data, information that is pending to be processed, information managed by a database, information extracted from specific information, mail information, and device management information.

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21. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising designation means for designating a condition with which said storage means

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22. An information processing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said designation means determines for each operation whether or not said hysteresis data are to be stored.

23. An information processing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said designation means determines for each operation whether or not an object to be processed is to be stored.

24. An information processing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said designation means designates a person who is permitted to refer to said hysteresis data.

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Q5 } 25. An information processing apparatus according  
to claim 1, wherein a process performed by said  
20 processing means includes one of reading of  
information, printing, copying, displaying,  
transmitting, saving, search, pending, editing,  
deletion, condition change and setup change.

25            26. An information processing apparatus according  
to claim 1, further comprising control means for  
controlling said process performed by said processing

means based on said hysteresis data stored in said storage means.

27. An information processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said control means controls reperformance or cancellation of said process performed by said processing means.

28. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a second processing means for performing a process based on said hysteresis data stored in said storage means.

29. An information processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said process performed by said second processing means is an instruction to another apparatus to execute a predetermined process.

30. An information processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said process performed by said second processing means includes one of printing, displaying, transmitting, saving, pending, editing, deleting, changing of a hysteresis data saving period, condition change, a setup change, and update of knowledge.

31. An information processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said process performed by said

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second processing means includes filing, scheduling, pending, management of an address list, mail processing and device management.

5           32. An information processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said storage means stores hysteresis data in correlation with an object to be processed by said second processing means.

10           33. An information processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said process performed by said second processing means includes a search for hysteresis data.

15           34. An information processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said process performed by said second processing means includes display of a list of hysteresis data that are searched for.

20           35. An information processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said process performed by said second processing means includes display of a list of hysteresis data that are stored in said storage means.

25           36. An information processing apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said process performed by said second processing means includes a process for

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selecting specific hysteresis data from said list of hysteresis data.

5 37. An information processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said process performed by said second processing means includes re-performance of an operation corresponding to selected hysteresis data.

10 38. An information processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said process performed by said second processing means includes the performance, for an object for an operation corresponding to selected hysteresis data, of a process that differs from said operation corresponding to said selected hysteresis data.

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20 39. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of function units, wherein hysteresis of an operation that is completed within a specific function unit is stored independently of hysteresis stored in said storage means.

25 40. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising acquisition means for acquiring hysteresis data for another apparatus, wherein said second processing means employs said

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hysteresis data obtained by said acquisition means and said hysteresis data stored in said storage means to perform a process.

5           41. An information processing apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said second processing means displays said hysteresis data for another apparatus, which are obtained by said acquisition means, and said hysteresis data of said information processing  
10           apparatus, which are stored in said storage means.

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*28*           42. An information processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said hysteresis data include said object to be input ~~er~~ to be processed, and said second  
15           processing means performs a process for said object.

          43. An information processing apparatus according to claim 42, further comprising selection means for selecting specific hysteresis data from a plurality of  
20           hysteresis data sets stored in said storage means, wherein said second processing means performs a process for said object in said hysteresis data selected by said selection means.

*Sol*  
*29*           44. An information processing method comprising:  
25           an input step of entering information;  
          a processing step of processing said information

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a storage step of storing said information as hysteresis data for an operation that is performed at said input step or at said processing step.

45. An information processing method according to claim 44, further comprising an output step of outputting results obtained at said processing step.

46. An information processing method according to claim 44, wherein at said storage step associated information is stored as well as an operation that was performed as hysteresis data.

47. An information processing method according to claim 46, further comprising an analyzation step of analyzing the contents of an operation performed at said input step or at said processing step, and of acquiring said associated information for said operation.

48. An information processing method according to claim 44, wherein said input step includes an operation entry step manipulated by a user.

49. An information processing method according to claim 44, wherein said input step includes a reception

step of receiving an instruction or information from an external device.

50. An information processing method according to  
5 claim 49, wherein said instruction includes an instruction from a user for an external device.

51. An information processing method according to  
claim 44, wherein said input step includes a detection  
10 step of detecting a status.

52. An information processing method according to  
claim 44, wherein said associated information includes  
information concerning a person relative to an  
15 operation.

53. An information processing method according to  
claim 52, wherein said information concerning a person  
includes a person who has issued an instruction or has  
20 performed an operation.

54. An information processing method according to  
claim 44, wherein said input step includes a reading  
step of reading and inputting image data.

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55. An information processing method according to  
claim 46, wherein said associated information includes

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information concerning time for execution.

56. An information processing method according to claim 46, wherein said associated information includes information concerning a location for execution.

57. An information processing method according to claim 46, wherein said associated information includes information concerning an apparatus for execution.

58. An information processing method according to claim 46, wherein said associated information includes information concerning an object for execution.

59. An information processing method according to claim 46, wherein said associated information includes associated hysteresis information to correlate with hysteresis information for another associated operation.

60. An information processing method according to claim 59, wherein said associated hysteresis information is used to store hysteresis data for a series of operations with correlation each other.

61. An information processing method according to claim 59, wherein said associated hysteresis

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information includes information to correlate with hysteresis information for preceding and succeeding operations of said series of operations.

5           62. An information processing method according to claim 51, wherein at said storage step said hysteresis data are stored in correlation with an object in a process other than a process performed at said processing step.

10           63. An information processing method according to claim 62, wherein said object includes one of file data, schedule data, information that is pending to be processed, information managed by a database,  
15 information extracted from specific information, mail information, and device management information.

20           64. An information processing method according to claim 44, further comprising a designation step of designating a condition with which said hysteresis data are stored at said storage means.

25           65. An information processing method according to claim 64, wherein, at said designation step, whether said hysteresis data are to be stored is determined for each operation.

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66. An information processing method according to claim 64, wherein at said designation step, whether a substance of an object to be processed is to be stored is determined for each operation.

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67. An information processing method according to claim 64, wherein a person who is permitted to refer to said hysteresis data is designated at said designation step.

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68. An information processing method according to claim 44, wherein a process performed at said processing step includes one of reading of information, printing, copying, displaying, transmitting, saving, search, pending, editing, deletion, condition change and setup change.

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69. An information processing method according to claim 44, further comprising a control step of controlling said process performed at said processing step based on said hysteresis data stored at said storage step.

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70. An information processing method according to claim 69, wherein re-performance or cancellation of said process performed at said processing step is controlled at said control step.

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71. An information processing method according to claim 44, further comprising a second processing step of performing a process based on said hysteresis data stored at said storage step.

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72. An information processing method according to claim 71, wherein said process performed at said second processing step is an instruction to another apparatus to execute a predetermined process.

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73. An information processing method according to claim 71, wherein said process performed at said second processing step includes one of printing, displaying, transmitting, saving, pending, editing, deleting, changing of a hysteresis data saving period, condition change, a setup change, and update of knowledge.

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74. An information processing method according to claim 71, wherein said process performed at said second processing step includes filing, scheduling, pending, management of an address list, mail processing and device management.

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75. An information processing method according to claim 71, wherein, at said storage step, hysteresis data is stored in correlation with an object to be processed at said second processing step.

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76. An information processing apparatus according to claim 71, wherein said process performed at said second processing step includes a search for hysteresis data.

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77. An information processing method according to claim 76, wherein said process performed at said second processing step includes display of a list of hysteresis data that are searched for.

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78. An information processing method according to claim 71, wherein said process performed at said second processing step includes display of a list of hysteresis data that are stored at said storage step.

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79. An information processing method according to claim 78, wherein said process performed at said second processing step includes a process for selecting specific hysteresis data from said list of hysteresis data.

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80. An information processing method according to claim 79, wherein said process performed at said second processing step includes re-performance of an operation corresponding to selected hysteresis data.

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81. An information processing method according to

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claim 79, wherein said process performed at said second  
processing step includes the performance, for an object  
for an operation corresponding to selected hysteresis  
data, of a process that differs from said operation  
5 corresponding to said selected hysteresis data.

82. An information processing method according to  
claim 44, further comprising a plurality of function  
steps, wherein hysteresis of an operation that is  
10 completed only at a specific function step is stored  
independently of hysteresis stored at said storage  
step.

83. An information processing method according to  
15 claim 44, further comprising an acquisition step of  
acquiring hysteresis data for another apparatus,  
wherein a process at said second processing step is  
performed by employing said hysteresis data obtained at  
said acquisition step and said hysteresis data stored  
20 at said storage step.

*84. 84.* An information processing method according to  
claim 83, wherein, at said second processing step,  
displayed are said hysteresis data for another  
25 apparatus, which are obtained by said acquisition  
means, and said hysteresis data of a subject  
information processing apparatus, which are stored at

said storage step.

85. An information processing method according to claim 71, wherein said hysteresis data include said object to be input or to be processed, and wherein a process for said object is performed at said second processing step.

86. An information processing method according to claim 85, further comprising a selection step of selecting specific hysteresis data from a plurality of hysteresis data sets stored at said storage step, wherein a process for said object in said hysteresis data, which is selected at said selection step, is performed at said second processing step.

87. A computer-readable storage medium on which is stored an information processing program for permitting a computer to perform information processing, said program comprising codes for causing said computer to perform:

- an input step of entering information;
- a processing step of processing said information entered at said input step; and
- a storage step of storing said information as hysteresis data for an operation that is performed at said input step or at said processing step.

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